









The Japanese Official Gazette reports that in September last there were 58 spinning mills in Japan. The total number of spindles in these mills was 685,573.

The export of coal from the port of Moji has wonderfully increased of late, says the *Yokohama Specie Bank*. The amount exported during sixteen days ended Dec. 16 was 32,000 tons, while for the three days ended on the 19th of the same month was 19,000 tons.

The Prince of Wales was on Dec. 2 nominated Grand Master of Freemasonry for the coming twelve months. This will be the twenty-third year His Royal Highness has occupied that position, and the nomination was received with loud applause.

The new cotton mill, which is to be established at Tientsin, will have, besides 10,000 spindles and 300 looms, machinery for the manufacture of broadcloth, Spanish shawls, flannels and linens. The total cost is estimated at 600,000 taels; 400,000 taels have already been subscribed by Chinese at Tientsin.—*P. and T. Times*.

Lord Durham has been entertaining a large party of friends at Lambton Castle. The Langley Park, Fensholt, Biddick, and other estates, which have been shot over, and in four days close upon 1,000 head were killed. Earl de Grey is credited with having performed the extraordinary feat of bringing down 400 birds in thirteen minutes.

PERSONAL estate of the gross value of £25,243. 12s. 3d., and of the net value of £20,886. 12s. 3d., has been left by Sir Albert Abdu'l Kader, of the late Government of Bombay, who died on Oct. 24 last, aged seventy-eight years, and of whose will his son (now Sir Ezra Abdu'l Kader, Sassoon, of Kensington Gore, Bart.) is the sole executor.

We hear (says the *P. and T. Times*) that a scheme is being formulated to build a hospital on some convenient spot in or near the British Concession. It is also proposed to bring out some trained nurses for the institution. We have written very strongly on this subject some time back. It is certainly necessary that this matter should be seriously taken in hand. Any reasonable scheme should meet with the strong support of the foreign residents of this growing port, and especially the British Municipality.

On the 24th Dec., at Yokohama, Henry Shaw, a Canadian serving on the British sailing ship *Engadine*, was arrested on a warrant issued by H.M.M.'s Assistant Judge, charged with stealing a silver watch, on the 15th Nov., while the ship was on the high seas between New York and Yokohama. The warrant issued on 15th Nov. is very serious, the knife entering his left breast up to the hilt, and the man is still suffering from the effects. Shaw has been lodged in the H.M.M. goal. This is the same individual who was sentenced to six months' hard labour on the 10th May, 1895, in H.M.M. Court for Japan, for a similar offence—stealing a silver watch.—*Japan Mail*.

The death is recorded of Mr. James Lyons Clemonson, of Dunsford House, New Broad Street, E.C., which took place on 16th November at his residence, 55, Chester Terrace, Regent's Park. Mr. Clemonson was well known in connection with the construction of railways. He was born on 11th October, 1849, and was, therefore, only fifty-six years of age at the time of his death. He was also consulting engineer to the only railway in China, viz. the Imperial Railway of North-China. In this capacity he frequently came into contact with Li Hung-chang, and was regarded by Chinese mandarins in recognition of his distinguished services. Having spent a considerable time in China, Mr. Clemonson possessed an intimate knowledge of that empire and its resources.

A BRILLIANT paper says:—The adoption of a new type of torpedo boat destroyer has been resolved upon. It is larger than the torpedo division boats, and will cost £250,000 each, or twice as much as a torpedo division boat. The first vessel of this type is to be built by Thornycroft and armed by Krupp. The others will be built by Messrs. Thornycroft's water-tube boilers, which have given excellent results in the fourth-class ironclad 'Agile'. A new torpedo foundry is to be established at Fritchard, near Kiel, at a cost of 80,000 marks, which will be recouped by the consequent saving of expense. The new S. 2 machine gun, which is said to be an improved Hotchkiss, of the same calibre, has been introduced into the Navy, including the older ships, in place of the latter weapon.

A VALUABLE smelting, which Mrs. P. Palmer, wife of a jeweller of wealth, Surrey, lost about seven years ago, was recovered one day last week under most remarkable circumstances. Mrs. Palmer was feeding some swans with bread-crumbs in Feteham Pond when the ring slipped off one of her fingers and disappeared into the water. Several searches were made at the time to recover the ring, but without success. One day last week a little boy from Bookham was walking along the side of the pond, amusing himself by testing the depth of the water with a walking stick, when he discovered that there was a gold ring on the end of the stick, picked up from the bottom of the pond. In order to ascertain its value he took the ring to Mr. Palmer's shop, where it was at once identified as the ring which Mrs. Palmer had lost about seven years ago. It was little the worse for its long immersion in the pond. Mr. Palmer retained the ring, but the boy was compensated for having to part with it.

THE *Yokohama Specie Bank* cannot understand, says the *Japan Mail*, why Moji and Shimonomaki are excluded from the list of special commercial ports. If the authorities made the distinction owing to considerations of military strategy, nothing could be more unreasonable. In fact they are open to the charge of a complete misconception, for they do not seem to be in mind the fact that the object of military defence is to guarantee the safety of commercial transactions and to promote the prosperity of trade. The step they have taken with regard to the two ports amounts to sacrificing commercial interests on the altar of military defence. Shimonomaki port occupies a very important position with regard to Japan's commerce, for its foreign trade aggregated over 22 million yen last year, being thus inferior to Yokohama and Kobe only. The inconvenience to which the port is subjected seriously impedes its prosperity. Suggestions for its improvement, however, must be first carried to Kobe, and thence shipped back to Shimonomaki, with the result of increased expenses. The *Yokohama Specie Bank* is a good example of commercial transactions and military defence can be combined, and urges the authorities to remove the serious inconvenience now suffered by the people of Moji and Shimonomaki.

## REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL']

London, 3rd January, 1897.

## RUSSIA AND THE ARMENIANS.

The Year has authorised the collecting of funds throughout the empire for Armenian Emigrants.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Sir Charles Bruce, at present Governor of the Windward Islands, has been appointed Governor of Mauritius, in place of Sir Hubert Jerningham, who takes the Governorship of Trinidad.

## BANK FAILURES IN THE UNITED STATES.

The failure of local banks in the western United States continues, and two managers have committed suicide.

## THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

JAPAN'S AID INVOKED, BUT REFUSED.

(Special Telegram from Our Own Correspondent at Spanish Headquarters.)

MANILA, Jan. 3.

The testimony of an informant named Vasquez, the chief witness at the trial of suspects yesterday, and who was also the principal witness against Dr. Rizal, showed that Rizal was strenuously opposed to the rebellion, but his opposition was concealed from his followers by the active leaders. Using his name fraudulently, they foolishly relied upon the active assistance of Japan, but the Japanese authorities rejected all overtures and refused to give the slightest assistance to the rebel movement.

Several sharp skirmishes have taken place between the rebels and the Government forces to the north-east of Manila. It is believed here that the rebels in Cavite are operating in conjunction with these parties.

## ROUND HONGKONG ON BICYCLES.

We have often heard this subject discussed, but have not heard of it as yet. It is a very interesting idea, and we believe the trip round the Island on bicycles was accomplished on New Year's Day by Captain R. Archibald (of the *Empress of China*) and Capt. F. D. Goddard.

Starting from the Hongkong Hotel at 2.30 p.m., they made their way through the crowds wending their way to the Taikeo Refinery Sports at Quarry Bay and other attractions to the eastward, and reached Shaikwan about 3 p.m. They then wheeled their machines up over the Hill until they reached the road above Si Wan Bay which leads across to Tytan-tuk. The latter part of this road can be ridden in safety, and but for the channels for the water-courses which lead from the gullies this is not a bad road to ride provided the cyclist has a machine fitted with a reliable brake and able to stand a little rough usage. From Tytan-tuk, the most of the road is fair going until reaching Stanley.

Our bicyclists, not having resolved upon this journey before starting, had not taken any refreshments with them, but luckily at this point they met with a party of good Samaritans who were out on a picnic, and gave them a friendly invitation to stop and have a drink, which invitation was gladly accepted. It was now 5 p.m., and although the picnicers kindly offered them a passage to Hongkong in their commodious launch, pointing out that it was a rocky road to travel back and now almost sunset, either the Scotch and soda, or true British pluck predominated, and they resolved to finish their journey on their 'Bikes,' and left their kindly entertainers with friendly greetings for a Happy New Year.

It was a hard road wheeling up to the gap at Deep Water Bay, as any one knows who has footed it, and a steep descent until almost at the Telegraph Station Bay, and then there was another long hill to surmount until turning into the road to the Brick and Cement Company's works; but those difficulties were surmounted, and it was a pleasant run on a good road in to Aberdeen where, having no lights, they stopped and purchased a couple of Chinese bamboo lanterns. After fixing them to their machines the intrepid pioneers rode on their way until reaching the foot of the hill up to Pokfulam. This is another long hill to push up, but this was also surmounted—it is a long hill that has no top! There was a good road at the top. The Dairy Farm appeared to be shut up, and no friendly Policeman was met at the station, so the travellers made the best of their way back to Hongkong with what speed they could with safety, for the road is dangerous enough in the dark; and the Clock Tower was again reached in ample time (and, needless to say, with good appetites) for an 8 o'clock dinner, to which, we are assured, they did ample justice.

This was no record-breaking feat undertaken by giddy youths, but rather a good afternoon's exercise by veteran mariners, and now we hear they are recommending all their friends who wheel, and wish to take off a pound or two, to go and do likewise.

W. Robertson & Co., Piano and Musical Instrument specialists and experts. Work shops and factory, Duddell St., Show Rooms, Queen's Road Central.

The Imperial loans at Hongkong are sending overland to Peking for the use of the Imperial Household 100 cases of silk pieces, which cost the Government 200,000 taels.—*Mercury*.

## THE YOKOHAMA POISONING CASE.

## POSTPONEMENT OF TRIAL.

The trial of Mrs. Carow on a charge of murdering her husband by wilfully administering arsenic to him, first originally for Monday, January 4, has been postponed, we learn from Japan till to-day (Tuesday, January 5). This postponement is said to have been made to meet the convenience of the jury.

## WEATHER NOTICE.

The following notice is issued from the Observatory:—

On the 5th at 11.25 a. The barometer has risen much and is now high in the extreme North, falling considerably on the E. coast of China. A low pressure area appears to be moving Eastward to the E. of Shanghai. Forecast: moderate or light E. and S.E. winds; fair.

## SIR JOHN WORRELL CARRINGTON.

## CONGRATULATIONS BY THE COURT OFFICIALS.

A deputation of the staff of the Registry of the Supreme Court, headed by Mr. J. W. Norton Kythe, Registrar, and consisting of the Deputies, Clerks, and other officers, waited upon the Chief Justice yesterday morning to congratulate him upon the recent honour conferred upon him by the Queen.

Mr. Kythe, addressing the Chief Justice, said—My Lord, on behalf of myself and Judge, I beg to congratulate you upon the honour of knighthood just conferred upon you. It is an honour very much sought after by many, but which few receive, and, having regard to the fact that it has been conferred upon you at such an early stage of your career in this Colony, the honour is one which ought to be all the more gratifying to you as well as gratifying to ourselves, knowing that you have earned it entirely through your own merit. Your career is one which you no doubt feel proud of, and which ought to be an encouragement to others, including ourselves. One of your standing and capacity should not necessarily be satisfied with the present honour. I have no doubt, from what I know of you, that your ability will carry you further, and though it seems as if the day when Chief Justice became Governors has gone by, still I have no doubt that other honours are still in store for you, apart from the fact that Colonial Chief Justices are now, or about to be made Privy Counsellors, as a position which at least you may hereafter look forward to. We trust that you and your family may long live to enjoy the honours conferred upon you, and we all wish you and your family prosperity.

The Chief Justice, in reply, thanked Mr. Kythe and his staff for their unexpected congratulatory, which had taken him entirely by surprise. The fact that the honour had been conferred upon him at such an early period of his tenure of the office of Chief Justice was a proof of the importance that was attached to the Colony by the Imperial Government. He thanked Mr. Kythe and the staff for their kind congratulations and expressions of satisfaction at the honour which His Majesty had been pleased to bestow upon him. It had given him great pleasure to see how kindly the matter had been regarded by the inhabitants of the Colony generally. It was a pleasure to him to know what a capable body of officers there was in the Registry here, and he gladly acknowledged the efficient assistance which he had always received from Mr. Kythe and the staff. He concluded by thanking the deputation and wishing them happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Mr. Kythe then called for three cheers for Sir John Worrell Carrington, and the deputation afterwards withdrew.

We learn (says the *Japan Mail*) that the Shanghai journals are mistaken in their statement as to Mr. Brilja's being appointed Austro-Hungarian Consul in Yokohama. The appointment is that of Secretary to the Consulate. Mr. de Flesch remains Consul as before.

An amusing addition to the story of the dissensions among the ladies resident on Ascension Island is sent us by 'An Old African Cruiser.' He writes:—Some years since a captain, now dead, who was in command of the island had to decide a very difficult point of etiquette. Some of the ladies complained to him that the best seats in church, the front ones, were taken by the wives of the junior officers. The captain looked very thoughtful for a few minutes, then gave his decision which was, 'In future the elder ladies are to have the front seats.' He was never troubled again on this subject.

The official returns of German foreign trade for October show great progress again. The imports amounted to about 35,000,000 double cwt., against 32,000,000 in October 1895, and 30,500,000 in October 1894. The increase on the same month last year is therefore 12½ per cent. The total imports for the ten months of this year amount to about 300,000,000 double cwt., against 260,000,000 in the corresponding months of last year, showing an increase of nearly 20 per cent. Up to Nov. 1, 1896, the same month last year, the increase was 18½ per cent. The total imports for the whole of 1895 or 1896, it is remarkable to hear, says the Berlin correspondent of the *Daily News*, that German exports by no means kept pace with the imports. They amounted in October to 25,700,000 cwt., against 22,400,000 in October of last year, and 22,800,000 in the same month of 1894. The increase, therefore, amounted to only 1,300,000 cwt., or 5½ per cent. It is noteworthy that some of the most important articles—especially iron and textile goods—show a decrease compared with the exports last year. The total exports during the ten months of this year amount to 210,700,000 cwt., against 193,500,000 in the corresponding months of last year. The increase is chiefly due to the export of iron. With the exception of iron, the export of agricultural produce declined, while nearly 2,000,000 double cwt. more were imported than last year.

## NOTES BY THE WAY.

Shanghai proposed to have a sham fight—Volunteers, and blue-jackets from H.M.S. *Abatis* and *Plover*, and all that sort of thing, don't you know! But Shanghai also proposed holding a paper-chase on the same day, so the sham fight was postponed indefinitely and the paper-chase was held. This reminds me of Hongkong and the Raters' Association. The Raters' Association that never was! Hongkong, after long years of official repression, had worked itself into a state of feverish excitement and called upon its 'free and enlightened' to meet in the City Hall and band themselves together for the annihilation of the common enemy—the official! But Hongkong had to witness the final of the tennis tournament, and the Raters' Association is not yet!

I have it on good authority that only about two-thirds of the vaccinations made with Hongkong and Saigon lymph are effective. What proportion of failures may be set down to the Hongkong lymph, and what proportion to that from Saigon, it is probably impossible to say. But it is surely a sorry state of things for a British Colony, and it does not redound to the credit of the Sanitary Authorities, that we should be so badly prepared for emergencies. On a previous occasion the Government had to fall back upon the General Managers of the Tai Yek Fong for lymph, and Mr. J. D. Humphreys came to the rescue. In these days, after what has been spent upon the tidy little Vaccine Institute at Kennedy Road, it is not creditable that any difficulty should be experienced in taking what precautions science lays down as necessary to be taken against an outbreak of smallpox.

In a book of travels in North America, dated 1791—which is referred to in *Macmillan* for November last—I find it was the custom in the new country (the U.S.A.) and in Canada for the ladies to stay at home and receive the gentlemen of their acquaintance on New Year's Day. Old residents in Hongkong will remember that this custom was in full swing in this Colony over thirty years ago, and that it continued to hold good here until about fifteen years ago. The custom came, of course, from America, and was in itself pleasant enough, until it became a bore for the ladies to be bothered by visits from those who were not even acquaintances. One feature of the custom, as carried out in this Colony, was that it was not imported into this Colony. It was permitted of all comers, we are told, to salute their fair hostesses on each check—an innovation which the Canadian ladies were at first reluctant to adopt, but which they subsequently permitted. This particular part of the New Year's call was enjoyed exceedingly by the masculine friends of the hostesses. We are wiser now in our day and generation. Now-a-days ladies favour only!

The question of the hall accommodation for the naval and military services is one, I think, which deserves consideration from the authorities. Considering the increasing importance of Hongkong as a naval and military base, and the gradual strengthening of this part of the East, it is little short of a miracle that there should be so little accommodation for soldiers and sailors in search of indoor entertainment. The number of British troops in the Garrison is about 1500; of these must be added the men of H.M. ships who are here and who visit Hongkong. At present, the only accommodation for entertainments on temperance principles is in Chinese houses in a crowded part of the city. At a time when our landladies infectious disease is stalking around the outskirts of the Colony, it is not at all to the higher authorities responsible for the fighting units of our army and our navy, that there is a positive danger in not providing a decent building for a soldiers' and sailors' institute?

I am given to understand a proposal has already been made to erect on the island a building similar to the Kowloon Institute, the only difference being that, instead of being under Church of England management, it should be in connection with the Wesleyan body, which holds largely in the army and the navy. At the same time, the hall or institute would be open to all denominations. Such institutions exist already at all the large Garrison stations abroad and at Home—Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria, Singapore, Colombo, &c.—at a cost of £35,000, and are found to be a welcome offset to the drinking shops and dens, so undesirable features in all Garrison towns. General Black, or the Colonial Government, should find no difficulty in placing a site at the disposal of anyone willing to raise funds for the erection of a building for anything that makes for the promotion of temperance and social improvement in the army and the navy. At present there is no place capable of accommodating more than 100 men. This is not as it should be. Hongkong has been a Garrison station for over forty years, and little has been done as yet for Tommy Atkins.

When I meet a man who expresses his doubt as to the efficacy of advertising, I begin to wonder in what age he was born, reared and educated. There is not in the whole universe a 'live' concern of any dimensions that does not owe its prosperity to advertising. Take Dorrill (Limited), Pears, Buechan, Lipton, the numerous cycle companies that are actually forcing many people to become cyclists against their inclinations (because they dare not 'out of fashion'), take any successful concern in Europe, Asia, America, Africa, or Australia, anywhere, and you will find that it almost owes its very existence to 'advertising.' There are some prominent merchant firms, of course, who owe their present position to adventitious circumstances in prehistoric times; but where these have refused to adopt modern methods they are going steadily to the wall. That is in the very nature of things. Now, Mr. Ernest Terah Huxley is one of those men whose intellect develops big ideas. Some people call him a Company-promoter; he probably looks upon himself as a benefactor of the investing British, and those who have to sell what the investor will buy. This is the gentleman who offered a gold commission service—the costliest in the world—to St. Paul's Cathedral; a stroke which stamps him at once as a bold and original advertiser. That is the secret of the whole matter. There are advertisers and advertisers, as I suppose you know, Mr. Editor. The secret of successful advertising can scarcely be learned; it is a gift of nature, and most of the eminent firms recognising this are not afraid to employ 'advertising specialists' who know how to arrest the attention of the public. In *Pear's Annual* there appears the following sentence which may not be without interest to your readers:—'The colossal proportions of this modern manufacturing enterprise (Pear's) have been attained by a persistent course of advertising in which art, to be an adept, a man requires genius.'

DIOGENES.

THE SITUATION IN NORTH CHINA.

Sheng Tsu-ya is now in Shanghai, where he will meet Mr. Bash, of the American Syndicate and others, who will doubtless try to secure railway contracts from him. He proposed, says *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*, to the West Paganuans, to contract any foreign loans until half of the loan was ready, but, in order to commence it, he asked for a Government loan of 10,000,000, the remaining 10,000,000 he guaranteed to procure when the Government had been fully floated. He recommended that the foreign loans should be made from the United States, and the necessary material bought from there.

The Railway is to be conducted according to foreign methods, and there will be thirty-six Directors of the line. It is intended to call up 3 per share, only, every year.

Messrs Kinder and Bourne, we hear, are to complete the survey of the Lu-chow-chiao—Peking-to-Liao, the first section of the projected Lu-chow-chiao—Bankow Liao. As the port of the capital of the Empire, Tientsin, promises in the course of the next few years, when the railway extensions have been completed, to become a great emporium for foreign trade, and being brought in close contact with Peking by the new railway, its influence on the Capital will be very great. Many also will be the travellers who will visit Peking, which, although very dusty in dry weather and muddy in full proportion to its magnitude in wet, has many charms and structures of an archaic interest. The Temple of Confucius; the Astronomical Observatory; the Ten Stone Drum; engraved 500 u.c.; the Palace of Earthly Rensou; the Temple of Imperial Ancestors; the Hall of Fortitude of the Chinese Emperors and Sages; and the Hall of the Literary Abyss will tremble when they hear the blast of the 'Iron Horse' at the thirteen gates of the ancient capital of the Liao Empire; and the spirit from which they spring, self-animating self-sufficient and exclusive in its essence as no other in this world, will feel that its life is threatened, and that the time is drawing near when the Purple Forbidden City must unravel itself under the influence of the breath of irresistible science.—*P. and T. Times*.

## TILLY WANCHAI WAREHOUSE AND STORAGE CO. LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the sixth ordinary annual meeting, to be held at the offices of the General Managers, at 3 o'clock p.m. on Friday the 8th inst.:

The General Managers beg to submit to the shareholders their Report on the working of the Company and a Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1896. In accordance with the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders on the 11th July 1896, the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company was duly re-elected, and in consequence the active business of the Company ceased with the 30th June, so that the second half-year is the first period under the new lease. The net profits of the first half-year, including £1,400.00, brought forward from last account, but deducting £1,220.12 expenses in connection with the lease, amounted to £1,179.88, against which an interim dividend was paid on the 23rd October at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, amounting to £83.90. Of the balance now at the credit of Profit and Loss Account, £4,134.55, the General Managers recommend the payment of a final dividend at the same rate, and to carry forward the balance of £294.35 to New Profit and Loss Account.

Consolidating Committee.—On the lease being completed, Messrs P. S. Satch and H. Stollerfort sent in their resignation, there being no more work for them, and for the same reason the General Managers propose not again to elect a Consolidating Committee. The Committee have been audited by Mr. F. Henderson, whose reelection is recommended.

Messrs P. S. Satch and H. Stollerfort, General Managers, Hongkong, 4th January, 1897.

On Dec. 2, 1895, the population of Prussia was 31,565,123, of whom 15,204,684 were males. The population of Prussia was 1,677,304 without, and over 2,000,000 with the suburbs.

The *Indian Forester* for November gives some extracts from Kerner and Oliver's *Natural History of Plants*. Some of the certified dimensions of trees, the *Forester* remarks, are astounding, and it would be interesting to learn further details in regard to these measurements. It seems incredible that a chestnut tree should attain a diameter of stem of 20 metres, about the length of a cricket pitch. The certified estimates of the heights of trees are no less a tax upon one's credulity. Twenty varieties of tall trees are given ranging from the *Taxus baccata* (yew tree) with a comparatively modest height of 15 metres to the *Sequoia sempervirens* (peppercorn tree) with the colossal stature of 132 metres. The latter consequently attains the greatest height of all known trees. The highest of these trees placed beside St. Paul's Cathedral would tower about 40 metres above the cross, and would be only four metres lower than Gylgane Cathedral!

As some reported discovery of men with tails is published in *Nature*, though, as our contemporary intimates, further particulars on the subject must be awaited before much reliance can be placed upon the story. According to an account of the author in *L'Anthropologist*, six years ago, in the course of a visit to the Indo-Chinese region, between 11 deg. and 12 deg. lat. and 104 deg. and 108 deg. long., M. Paul d'Enjoy captured an individual of the Moluccans, who had climbed a large tree to gather honey. In descending, he applied the sole of his feet to the bark; in fact, he climbed like a monkey. To the surprise of the author and his Annamite companions, their prisoner had a caudal appendage. He conversed with them, swagreed in his savage pride, and showed that he was more than a monkey. The caudal appendage, which, as the author adds, is however a very different matter. M. d'Enjoy saw the common dwelling of the tribe to which this man belonged, but the other people had fled; it consisted of a long, narrow, tunnel-like hut made of dry leaves. Several polished stones, bone pipes, copper bracelets, and beads, however, were found inside; these had doubtless been obtained from the Annamites of the frontier. The Moluccan tribes are well known to be acquainted with a black rocky volcanic poison. This is not their only peculiarity. All the Moluccans whom M. d'Enjoy has seen in the settlements have very accentuated and bones, looking like the spurs of a cock. All the neighbouring nations treat them as brutes, and destroy them; remarkable people, whom the author believes to have occupied originally the whole Indo-Chinese Peninsula.

## THE JAPANESE VOLUNTEER FLEET.

Positive statements are again published by the vernacular press with reference to the volunteer fleet, the building of which is projected by a number of staff officers on the Reserve List. The fleet is to consist of two cruisers of six thousand tons displacement each; six of three thousand tons; fourteen strongly-constructed iron steamers, and eight steam-launches. In times of peace, these vessels are to be employed on the American, Australian, Chinese, Korean, and Formosan lines, and in time of war they would be available, gratis, for protecting Japanese merchantmen, or attacking the mercantile marine of the enemy. The capital of the company organized for the purposes of this fleet is to be twenty million yen in four thousand shares of 50 yen each, and steps are to be taken at once to procure subscribers. The head office is to be in Kobe, with branches in Osaka, Tokyo, and Yokohama. It will be observed that the projectors estimate the average cost of their ships at about £35 per ton, which seems very small for vessels of the type contemplated.—*Japan Mail*.

## THE SITUATION IN NORTH CHINA.

Sheng Tsu-ya is now in Shanghai, where he will meet Mr. Bash, of the American Syndicate and others, who will doubtless try to secure railway contracts from him. He proposed, says *Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*, to the West Paganuans, to contract any foreign loans until half of the loan was ready, but, in order to commence it, he asked for a Government loan of 10,000,000, the remaining 10,000,000 he guaranteed to procure when the Government had been fully floated. He recommended that the foreign loans should be made from the United States, and the necessary material bought from there.

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## THE NEW CHINESE MINISTER TO GREAT BRITAIN.

## PARVILL ADDRESS TO THE TIENTSIN COMMUNITY.

H. E. Sir Chih Chen Lo Feng-luh, Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James's, has published the following farewell to the community of Tientsin:—

Gentlemen, in taking departure from a community among whom I have resided for the last eighteen years, I find it impossible to conceal my true feelings and to refrain from expressing my highest esteem and appreciation of their best qualities as fellow residents, colleagues and friends.

Their broad-mindedness and true Confucianism (if I might be allowed to call it so, for it is the highest honour I can bestow upon my most worthy friends) selfless my power of expression. I feel highly flattered when I was free elected, without any hint or suggestion on my part, as a Member of the Tientsin Municipal Library and of the Literary and Debating Society, from which institutions I derive regular supplies of mental food, and to which I am indebted for my knowledge of foreign politics and European literature. As colleagues, in spite of the conflicts of Government's interests and official duties, I am glad to say that I have always enjoyed perfect harmony with them, in a few exceptional cases we had some light differences in the commencement, but after thorough examination of truth the best understanding was arrived at in the end.

When I was strongly but unjustly attacked by the noxious calumnies, concerning my effects upon my mind. Friends in need are friends indeed! On the return from our journey, under my former distinguished Chief, the pursuit of several editorials in the *Peking and Tientsin Times* has brought to the rim of my knowledge the realization of their wishes has doubled my gratitude, and I can only repay by serving my august master most faithfully and loyally for the benefits of the countries concerned. Gentlemen, I hope that the Tientsin Community will continue to prosper, and when I return from my mission I trust that I may find myself a more useful member to them than I have hitherto been. Adieu!

The most interesting match of the Rifle meeting at Moore's Army, Volunteers, this took off on the 17th Dec., and resulted in a victory for the Army by 31 points. This match was considered a trial between the Lee-Metford and the Martini, and the victory of the former with its lighter bullet is the more significant, as a high wind was blowing at the time. The winners scored 103 for 19 men, or 90 points less than in the previous year.

In anticipation of the security of Havana tobacco, which is commanding to make it self felt, owing to the fact that the Cuban tobacco is being sold in London are commencing to make a specialty of Borneo cigars. As we have often pointed out, most Borneo cigars are not only suitable for wrappers, but make excellent cigars for smokers. It would seem that Cuba's discovery will be Borneo's opportunity, and bring its undoubtedly good qualities to the front. Seeing that Borneo cigars of really good quality can be placed on the market at a fair price, and that there is no doubt in them, the fact which they have a chance of obtaining, they are made into a permanent demand.—*London and China Express*.

## CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

With reference to Sir A. Mackenzie's forcible speech the *Bygones* writes:—'We do not think it likely that the Commission will misunderstand the speech. But in case they are inclined to pause upon the question, we think it right to tell them plainly that it will not do. They began wrongly, they went from bad to worse when they were remonstrated with, and now they have brought things to such a pass that one of the authors of local self-government in this country scarcely hesitates to speak of the Calcutta Corporation as a sample of the failure of local self-government in India. The *Statesman* says in regard to Sir A. Mackenzie's proposed remedies:—'It is to be feared, however, that this is by no means all that must be done if the town is to continue to be even fit for human habitation. For it cannot be doubted that the fifth which has been allowed to accumulate in these quarters for generations must have contaminated the underlying soil to an extent which has rendered it dangerous to build upon without thorough and searching disinfection. What, for instance, is the thought of sewer discharging their contents into canals, the water of which is largely used for domestic and drinking purposes—both by the boatmen navigating them and by the surrounding population? What of flour-mills, doing an extensive business, the wheat used of which is actually washed in the water of tanks that receive the drainage of the neighbourhood, besides being fouled in every other conceivable way, to say nothing of the filthy awashers and stables with which the town is everywhere studded?'

The compromise of Messrs Trenchard & Co. with a gentleman of Tumbour, representing a Chinese syndicate, is going to establish a cotton spinning factory there with the reported capital of six hundred thousand taels.—*Mercury*.

The twin-screw steamer *Sadara*, built to the order of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, was launched from the Jarrow yard of Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Company, Limited, on 2nd December. Her length is 200 feet; length between perpendiculars 450 feet; beam, 32 feet; her cargo-carrying capacity is 8,000 tons. This is the first twin-screw steamer that has been launched for the P. and O.

A DISPATCH from Pittsburgh dated Nov. 17 says: 'When the Braddock plant of the Carnegie Steel Company resumed operations last midnight, the blast furnaces of the new rail mills started to fill orders for countries in the far East. Japan has an order for about 5,000 tons of rails, which are to be used in level country districts for light traffic. Forster will draw the cars. The rails will be laid on the coast, and being held together merely by clamps. The order, when filled, will be shipped by water. These rails are not half the weight of a railroad rail. An order for 10,000 tons of railroad rails has been received by the company from China since Li Hung-chang returned home. The first shipment of this order will be shipped the last of this week. This order is said to be one of the direct results of Li Hung-chang's visit to America, representatives of the Carnegie company having conferred with him while in New York.'

The poet Laureate, who has been fishing on the Tweed at Sprydonnub, above Coldstream, had a narrow escape from drowning the other day, says the *Scottishman*, he having been precipitated from his boat into the water. With



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